

Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

5 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 10 1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents comprising a first processing element, a second processing element, a reasoning element, and a database, wherein;
- 15 i) said first processing element is ~~further~~ configured to convert electronic documents into files;
- ii) said first processing element is configured to provide the files to a second processing element;
- iii) said second processing element is configured to receive said files and extract predetermined information from the files;
- 20 iv) said second processing element is further configured to provide said extracted predetermined information to said reasoning element;
- v) said database is configured to ~~also~~ provide input to said reasoning element;
- vi) said reasoning element is configured to ~~use~~ employ a set of rules to automatically extract metadata from the files by employing the extracted predetermined information and the input from the database; and
- 25 vii) said reasoning element provides an output of metadata.
- 30 2. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said files are substantially format invariant data files ~~such as Postscript files.~~

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3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said predetermined information is substantially spatial layout facts.

5 4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein the second processing element and said database simultaneously input to the reasoning element.

10 5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said set of rules ~~can be~~ is updated.

15 6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metadata is substantially comprised of title, author, affiliation, author affiliation, and table of contents.

20 7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metadata is provided to a user interface.

25 8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metadata is provided to a storage medium.

30 9. (Currently amended) A method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents providing a first processing element, a second processing element, a reasoning element, and a database and comprising the steps of:

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- a) ~~using~~ employing said first processing element to convert electronic documents to files;
- b) further ~~using~~ employing said first processing element to provide the files to said second processing element;
- 5 c) ~~using~~ employing said second processing element to receive said files and extract predetermined information from the files;
- d) further ~~using~~ employing said second processing element to provide extracted predetermined information to said reasoning element;
- 10 e) ~~using~~ employing said database to provide input to said reasoning element;
- f) ~~using~~ employing a set of rules in said reasoning element to automatically extract metadata from the files by employing the extracted predetermined information and the input from the
- 15 database; and
- g) providing an out put of metadata from said reasoning element.

10. (Currently amended) A The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said

20 files are substantially format invariant data files ~~such as Postscript files~~.

11. (Currently amended) A The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said predetermined information is substantially spatial layout facts.

12. (Currently amended) A The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein the second processing element and the database simultaneously input to the reasoning element.

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13. (Currently amended) A The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said set of rules ~~can be~~ is updated.

5 14. (Currently amended) A The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said metadata is substantially comprised of title, author, affiliation, author affiliation, and table of contents.

10 15. (Currently amended) A The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said metadata is provided to a user interface.

15 16. (Currently amended) A The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said metadata is provided to a storage medium.